

Messiah Messenger

Caring for and serving others so all may share in God's love.

March 2023
Volume 61
Issue 3



Rides with "Gray Lady II" A Message from the Pastor

"Gray Lady II" (my 2009 Toyota Tacoma Pickup truck ministry partner) and I have been getting around town quite a bit (and to Los Lunas) these past weeks. I especially take her out for a drive when the forecast is for snowy or in climate weather. She is sure a foot in such situations. Of course on ice I have to consider her weight and potential to slide atop it. She is beginning to show her age.

The past couple of months I have been noticing a noise in her driver's side front end. There is even a rattle vibration sometimes when she is idling at a stoplight with my foot on the brake. It goes away when I take my foot off the brake and we roll on down the road. Bumps will also show the rattle. So I asked her, "Where is that noise coming from that I hear?" She said, "From the front driver's side." I told her, "I meant, where or what in particular is making the rattle?" She just shrugged and said, "It was up to me to find out what is the problem." No progress made there in that query.

I guess she does depend on me to take care of her needs and fix her problems. I have to admit that I had gotten spoiled when I went to visit my son and drove a fairly new, smooth rolling, no rattles, GMC Tahoe. Yet, as I told myself not to compare their rides and comforts, it was not easy to do same. "Gray Lady II" is my ministry partner and

very dependable, even with her mileage "sounding." It is up to me to look beyond her moments and love her with the best concerns possible.

This got me thinking about the Gospel reading from Matthew chapter four from the last Sunday in February. The beginning Sunday of Lent. Our worship season of reflection on our relationship with our Lord, our Christian lifestyle and behavior, and our basic needs. In the reflecting we do come to grips with our strengths and shortcomings, but even more so, who daily watches and cares for us.

The section we had for the First Sunday in Lent Gospel was the "Temptation of Jesus in the wilderness." There is kept for us the conversation between Jesus and the evil one. The evil one tries three different temptations to get the Son of God to lower Himself from His position as the Son, to become tempted to test His knowledge of Himself. The evil one wants the Lord to lower Himself to focus on His human needs. You will notice that those three needs are what we would probably consider to be our three basic needs.

First, in a most humanly famished state, the evil one wants Him to show His divine side to cover His human side's needs by turning stones into food. Surely, the Lord was hungry, but He knew that the Father takes care of His faithful. Second, the evil one works on the human need to survive being hurt or ill. He even uses the Scripture to support that if the Father loved Him, angels would catch Him if He jumped of the Temple Pinnacle. Jesus would do magic for food or allow foolish adventures. Third, here we have our human need to have power. Not only power over our own destiny, but even over all that is about us. Ah, is that not the Father's promise to be with us through all things? His power to be ultimate and ours only as we live in Him. Is that not the purpose of Christ being incarnated as one of us to show His concern? Did not the Father, through His beloved Son, do for us what no power of our own could ever do? He took on our life, died defeating the power of sin which tries to con us into falling away from our faith in God, and defeated our most mortal fear, death; through His death and resurrection.

So to push the point, please forgive me, I am the "Gray Lady II's" mere mortal "I am." She does much well but is not able to totally care for herself, she needs my love, care and concern. I am not the great mechanic "I am" so I will take her to our mechanic to find and fix her prevalent rattle. I have listened to her need and I will see to her need. God does the same for us, yet, in a more ultimate and divine way. And His way even goes beyond this life to one that is blessed and eternal.

May the Lord's peace be with you each and every day.
Pastor Doug

March Scripture 2023



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|---|---|
| <p><u>March 5th</u> Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17</p> | <p><u>March 12th</u> Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42</p> |
| <p><u>March 19th</u> 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41</p> | <p><u>March 26th</u> Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45</p> |

Sunday Worship

9:30 a.m. Worship Service (Onsite and Zoom)

Fellowship following service

Weekday Bible Study Wednesday at 9:30 am

Council Meeting

2nd Tuesday this Month at 6:30 pm

MLC Women

2nd Saturday of the Month at 9:30 am

Sew & Share

1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month

Craft Class

Up and running

Contact for meeting time

Rising Sun Christian Community

11:30 a.m. Worship Service

Pastor Doug Mathison

office@messiahabq.org

Director of Music Katherine Alexander

kalex@unm.edu

Building & Grounds Carlo Bachechi

Church Office

office@messiahabq.org

505-299-3311

Please keep in your prayers our family and friends who are in need of our prayers this month. Prayer requests can be made by contacting the church office.

- Barbara
- Andy
- Katherine
- Rebecca Hauge
- Steve McHenry
- Stephanie
- Dotty Dahl
- Pat Baca & Family
- George Holly
- Irene Aldredge
- Carole Baker
- Loring Emery
- Helga Lindner
- Jacen Hoyt

Serving In the Military

- Matt Braund
- Daniel Vickers (Navy)
- Micah Kesatie (Army Reserves)

For the Love of Our Neighborhood...

March 2023 ~ EXCITING NEWS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Monthly meetings of the MLCW began again this month on Saturday, January 8, 2022. Our next meeting will be **Saturday, March 11, 2023**. We will meet at 9:30 am in the Messiah Conference Room. The Bible study from the W-ELCA magazine "Gather" will be used.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The study meets every Wednesday morning at 9:30 am. We usually meet in the Conference Room at Messiah, unless we need to be at appropriately socially distanced. The study is traditionally a study of the upcoming Sunday's Gospel lesson and other designated lessons. You can bring your own Bible, otherwise, there will be handouts of the scripture made available to you.

KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL and TOMASITA GRADE SCHOOL NEWS

In February, we started collecting Hygiene products for the families of students at Kennedy Middle School. We will continue to collect through March. Edna came over toward the end of February and loaded her vehicle with the items you graciously donated so far. Tomasita will be receiving \$100 worth of socks for their students.

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Thank you to the newly elected officers for their willingness to guide us through the next year in doing the Lord's work.

President: Brian Osterloh
V. Pres.: Ron Kulju
Secretary: Pat Baca
Treasurer: K. D. Pass
Fin. Sec't.: Cecelia Pepper
At Large: Kristi Adams
At Large: Debra Hoyt

(The Church Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. We have been meeting in person at the church and on ZOOM.)

RISING SUN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

They are meeting once again in our building (and with a digital format for those outside the building). They have been having fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall. They have a second camera up and running for their streaming service of their worship.

They will be hosting their church body conference (EACA) meeting at Messiah on Saturday, April 15, 2023. It will be held from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

WORSHIP AT MESSIAH

We are worshipping in the church building and doing ZOOM for those not in the building. We pray that this keeps us in touch with the Word of the Lord and each other. Sadly, our ZOOM experience has had its hiccups. Please understand that we are trying but it does not always perform as well as it could. We have also been emailing or mailing a weekly exposition of the weekly worship and lessons. We are having fellowship time following worship in the Fellowship Hall. Most of our eats are prepackaged, but some people bring in treats. Please pick and choose what works best for you and your health. Thank you to Brian and Cassandra Osterloh, KD Pass, Rosemary Butler, Debra Hoyt, Ron Kulju, Steve McHenry, Gene and Irene Aldredge, and Tony, for their extra assistance in making worship happen during this unusual time. We are having Holy Communion during the service with special directives for practicing social distancing and health concerns. We started using unleavened bread for the Sunday services, beginning April 24, 2022.

Thank you to Carol Hartenberger and Lee Danielson for making the communion bread we are presently using. If others would like to make the bread, we have a recipe available for you.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AT MESSIAH

- 1) Sew and Share—They will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. They will meet in the Conference Room, at 9:30 am, with some food and fellowship following. Come and have a great time putting together quilts and working with other members of the church. The next gatherings will be **March 7 and 14, 2023.**
- 2) We are in need of volunteers to help our worship services: PowerPoint/ZOOM (run the system); Offering Counters (count, record and deposit the offering); Altar Guild, and other activities throughout the year. Please sign up on the volunteer sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.
- 3) We have formed a "Vision Committee" to review and look into what is ahead for worship and other activities at Messiah. Presently, the committee consists of Ron Kulju, Steve McHenry, Cassandra and Brian Osterloh, Chuck Danielson, KD Pass, and Pastor Doug. They are interested in visiting with members of Messiah, as we look ahead being a worshipping center for our Lord. **Vision Committee will meet again on Tuesday, March 7, at 7 pm, at Messiah.**
- 4) **Flowers:** We are looking for people to bring flowers to adorn our flower shelf behind the altar. There is a flower chart on the big bulletin board by the Narthex Door if you would like to pick a certain Sunday.

- 5) **Lent:** We will be have 11:00 am Mid-week Lenten services on Wednesdays through Lent.
- 6) **Choir:** We are singing some anthems in the upcoming weeks. We would love to have more members as part of our choir. We practice after services on Sunday morning in the Conference Room.
- 7) **Holy Week Schedule:**

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Palm Sunday | April 2, 2023 | 9:30 am |
| Maundy Thursday | April 6, 2023 (on ZOOM) | 7:00 pm |
| Good Friday | April 7, 2023 | 7:00 pm |
| Easter | April 9, 2023 | 7:30 am, with Easter Breakfast following. AND 9:30 am |

Treasurer Report January 2023

| YTD/MTD | MTD | YTD |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Income | \$9,578.00 | \$9578.00 |
| Expense | \$7,111.57 | \$7,111.57 |
| Net | \$2,466.43 | \$2,466.43 |
| Balances | Beginning of Month | End of Month |
| Checking | \$118,846.70 | \$121,893.30 |
| MM | \$18,647.87 | \$18,648.03 |

March 2023 NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Messiah Lutheran Church Women
Women Officers**

President: Rosemary Butler
Secretary: Irene Aldredge
Treasurer: Dotty Dahl

Mission Lead Ladies

Growth: Lorraine Davis
Action: Charlotte Moritomo
Community: Dotty Dahl
Historian: TBD

Vision Committee will meet **Tuesday, March 7th @ 7:00 p.m.** at Messiah Lutheran Church.

Sew and Share will be held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at **9:30 a.m.**

- **March 7th**
- **March 21st**

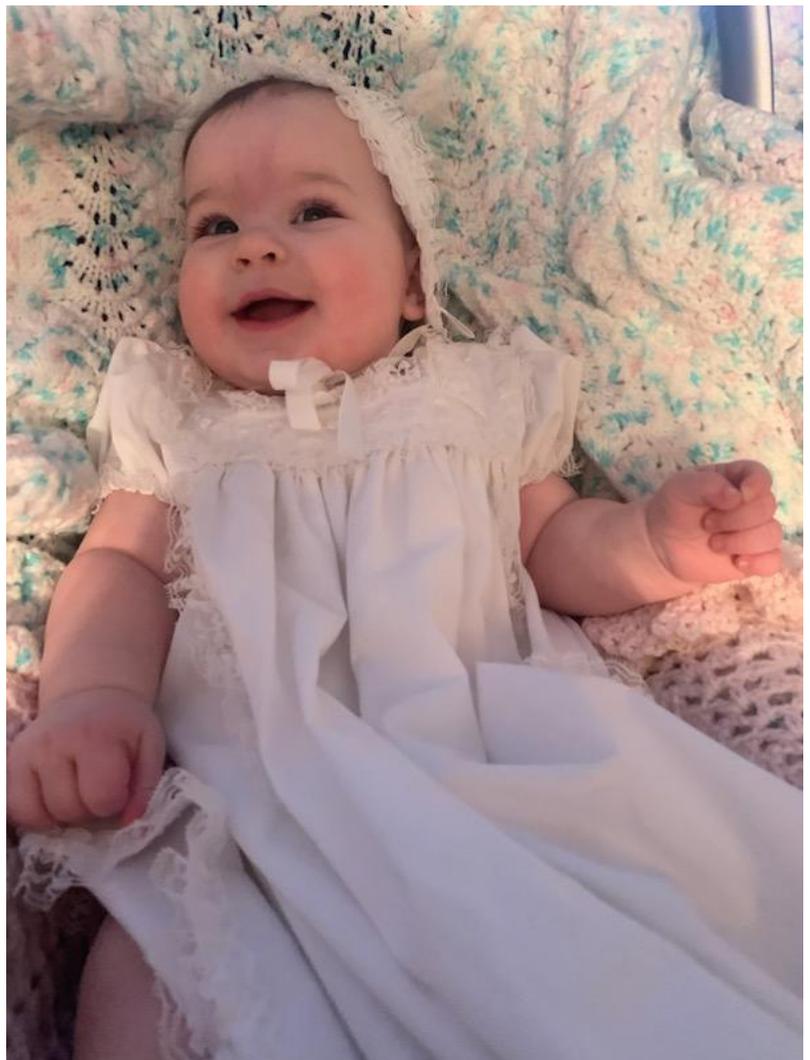
MLCW Bible Study will meet on **Saturday, March 11th at 9:30 a.m.**

Council meetings will take place **Tuesday, March 14th** this month at **6:30 p.m.** (On Zoom)

On **Wednesday's** we will be having our **Mid-week Lenten services at 11:00 a.m.** throughout Lent.

Messiah Welcomes our Newest Member

Abigail Rose Sarfaty, daughter of Julie Butler Sarfaty and Richie Sarfaty, was baptized by Pastor Doug Mathison on February 5th, 2023. She is the granddaughter of Rosemary Butler. Abby was born on June 29, 2022, in Albuquerque.



March 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|------------|---|---|------------|------------|--------------------------|
| | | | 1. | 2. | 3. | 4 |
| | | | 9:30 am Bible Study 11:00 am Mid-week Lenten service | | | |
| 5. | 6. | 7. | 8. | 9. | 10. | 11. |
| 9:30 am Worship & Fellowship (Choir Anthem) Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am | | 9:30 am Sew & Share 7:00 pm Vision Committee | 9:30 am Bible Study 11:00 am Mid-week Lenten service | | | 9:30 am MLCW Bible Study |
| 12. | 13. | 14. | 15. | 16. | 17. | 18. |
| 9:30 am Worship & Fellowship Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am | | 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting | 9:30 am Bible Study 11:00 am Mid-week Lenten service | | | |
| 19. | 20. | 21. | 22. | 23. | 24. | 25. |
| 9:30 am Worship & Fellowship Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am | | 9:30 am Sew & Share | 9:30 am Bible Study 11:00 am Mid-week Lenten service | | | |
| 26. | 27. | 28. | 29. | 30. | 31. | |
| 9:30 am Worship & Fellowship (Choir Anthem) Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am | | | 9:30 am Bible Study 11:00 am Mid-week Lenten service | | | |

Messiah Lutheran Church

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